

ER 9-5525/a

DCI 24 1957

Admiral Arleigh Burke  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Department of Defense  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Arleigh:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of  
your speech before the English Speaking Union  
with your note of 22 July.

I read your remarks with much interest  
and feel that they do an excellent job of  
putting the importance and modern day role of  
naval forces in proper perspective.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

STAT

O/DCI [redacted] /rc/23 Jul 57

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee  
1 - DCI  
1 - JAS  
✓1 - ER w/basic  
1 - Reading

ILLEGIB

MEMORANDUM FOR:  
Mr. Dulles

Admiral Burke's speech is on the  
importance of maintaining strong  
and modern naval forces and their  
role in modern warfare.

*On 9  
JAS  
JW*

23 July 57  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Approved For Release 2002/11/20 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001200130018-8

9-5525



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

22 July 1957

Dear Allen:

Enclosed is a copy of the speech you asked for on Sunday which I gave several months ago to the English Speaking Union.

Sincerely yours,

ARLEIGH BURKE

The Honorable Allen Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C.

ADDRESS BY

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH A. BURKE, USN, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
BEFORE THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION, LONDON, ENGLAND --  
MONDAY, 1 APRIL 1957 -- EXPECTED TOD: 1730 GCT - 1230 EST

My Lord Mayor, Your Excellencies, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor to be here. I have long looked forward to paying another visit to England.

I am here today as a sailor, but I would like to emphasize at the beginning that our defense team consists of an Army, a Navy, an Air Force and the Marines. Each service is carefully balanced in relation to others.

The world is changing. Some of the changes are so far-reaching that it is impossible to comprehend the full impact of all of them.

The world population, for example, is increasing at an unprecedented rate. It looks as if it may triple in the next hundred years.

Land frontiers of the world have all but disappeared. About the only areas on the surface of the earth which remain to challenge man's pioneering spirit and ingenuity in the years ahead are the oceans. Beyond that is the space above us.

The time may come, of course, when we may be able to pioneer on some other planet. But today our problem is to get along on this particular planet.

Technological change is accelerating. Land transportation, water transportation and air transportation technology is progressing ~~at~~ a very rapid rate. The need to transport

MORE

people and material among nations is expanding year by year.

At sea, our nuclear-powered submarine NAUTILUS cruised, on her first core, the equivalent of twenty-four Atlantic crossings, or two and one-half times around the world, without refueling.

Guided and ballistic missiles are soon to become commonplace methods for delivery of destructive power--and times of delivery will be measured in minutes. Antiaircraft surface-to-air guided missiles already in operation have demonstrated phenomenal accuracy against aircraft targets.

The destructive power of weapons has increased tremendously. The world is haunted by the specter of a nuclear exchange between rival population centers.

Defense costs are rising steeply, yet satisfactory solutions to our security problems still seem far away.

More people, more speed and more destructive power have created among us a feeling of global claustrophobia. Many have become so mesmerized by the possibility of massive devastation that other more practical, and perhaps less futile, solutions to our problems are being overlooked.

In times like these, men are compelled to search for new and better answers to their problems. If enough of us search hard enough, better answers will surely be found, and perhaps not too far in the future.

In our search for better answers, we are mindful that certain things have not changed very much. I shall mention only a few.

First of all, geography--the basic geography of this planet--has not changed very much. The mountains remain where they were. So do the deserts, the plains and the seas. Land areas constitute less than one-third of the surface of the earth. The water areas, covering the rest of the world, still remain relatively untouched.

Another thing which has not changed very much is human nature. People are land conscious.

People understand land problems more readily than they do sea problems. Most of the research and development talent of the human race is devoted to the solution of land problems. That portion of the total human effort available, which is devoted to sea matters, still remains very small.

Nevertheless, human liberty and national independence seem to bear some kind of relationship to an understanding of the sea. The British, more than any other people in the world, bear witness to the fact that sea-consciousness and independence are related.

Today, from the interior of Asia, totalitarianism threatens the maritime world. Totalitarianism is again on the march. This threat has taken many forms over the years, as it alternately pressed against the maritime world and then receded. Communist totalitarianism is reaching out--seeking to subjugate more people and to control more territory. The cycle has begun again.

Consciously and sometimes unconsciously, the maritime world has united when threatened with totalitarian aggression. More often than not, this unity has been rather loose and informal. It has been a unity born of common ideals and common purposes, in the face of a common threat. It has been a common advance toward common goals.

Rarely have all members of this wonderful maritime federation proceeded along precisely the same path--or at the same rate--or in rigid cadence. Yet, the fact remains that this loose, informal maritime association has been, almost from the beginning, one of the most powerful, consistent and constructive influences in the history of civilization. No people on the face of the earth have contributed more to this freedom-maritime concept than have the British.

Continental-minded conquerors have long sought to subjugate these British Isles. None ever understood why the accomplishment of this should be so difficult. There may even be a few today who still do not understand.

It is doubtful whether Napoleon ever understood how his losses at sea, far beyond his shores, were spinning a web from which he would never escape.

Hitler would probably have missed the point and been well pleased had he known after Dunkirk that your great Prime Minister had stripped these islands to reinforce the Middle East. There were perhaps, in those days too, many who would have placed less emphasis on striking the enemy in

distant theaters and more on home defense installations.

The Free World owes much to the fact that such advice did not prevail.

New weapons and new techniques have increased the vulnerability of all types of installations. This is particularly true of fixed bases which can be accurately located well in advance of attack. We in the United States Navy are particularly concerned about the increased vulnerability of stationary bases which support our forces at sea. To us in the Navy this means greater emphasis on moving forces, such as mobile carrier striking forces, and less reliance on stationary bases for support.

New technologies have done something more. They have disinterred the ancient claim that a weapon has at last been found that will sweep surface ships from the seas.

This is, of course, an old story to sailors. For some reason or other, the development of a new weapon has almost invariably been accompanied by a claim that navies were finished.

To take only recent examples, in the 19th century, it was the rifled gun that was to do us in. Then it was the torpedo, the submarine, the airplane and the atomic bomb. Now the nuclear-powered submarine is the weapon that finally is to sink all ships at sea.

Let us not underestimate the threat of the nuclear-powered, missile-firing submarine. However, new weapons will also be put to work to assist the Free World navies in controlling and using the seas. Instead of spelling the

doom of navies, powerful new weapons invariably add to our strength at sea.

The need to use the oceans is greater today than ever before. The tonnage of material moved by sea continues to increase year after year. Over 99½ per cent of the total world volume of trade moves by sea. Less than one-half of one per cent moves by air.

Survival under attack depends on the ability of the free world to come quickly to the support of beleaguered nations by sea - with modern, hard-hitting Army, Navy and Air Force teams. The Free World will continue to use the surface of the seas. The fact is that there can be no Free World unless we do.

There can be no Free World association unless its navies are kept up to date. Guns can no longer shoot down modern, high-flying planes. Guided missiles are needed. Navies must be equipped with the modern weapons and equipment needed to meet all threats at sea. Modern weapons and equipment are needed to cope with the innumerable tasks which navies must perform.

Modern weapons and equipment are costly. The weight heavily on the economy of the richest nations.

The Royal Navy is to be congratulated on the steps it has taken, and will take, to maintain modern effectiveness. Modern devices, such as the new aircraft--Scinitar and Sea Vixen, the guided missile--Sea Slug, and other modern devices

of which we have heard encouraging reports, will all be needed in the future.

It is not easy, as I have found from painful experience, to make the decision to spend large portions of the funds available to a Navy on new equipment. Nevertheless, it is a necessary decision.

We in the United States Navy are convinced that naval power will have a greater influence on the lives and affairs of nations in the years ahead than it has ever had in the past.

In the nuclear-missile age, even more than in the past, the side which commands the seas will not be defeated. The greatness of Britain bears testimony to her long appreciation of this fundamental principle.

Technologically, we in the United States Navy feel that we are now moving ahead, after an initial period when naval developments seemed to lag behind developments in land-based weapons. Many of the wonderful ideas which we are using in our new ships we owe to our colleagues in the Royal Navy.

Of particular significance are some of the contributions you have made to the effectiveness of our mobile carrier striking forces--steam catapults, the angled carrier deck, the mirror-landing system; to name a few.

We look forward to still more naval progress as the sea-consciousness of the Free World increases, as it surely will and must. All of us should develop the habit of looking

ahead toward the seapower of the future, before our communist competitors, who are learning fast about these things, take the oceans away from us. Everything possible must be done to interest more of the creative and industrial genius of our countries in the solution of oceanic problems.

Turning now to the specific problem of Free World security in the nuclear-missile age, three things appear to be necessary:

First, our main defenses must be advanced as far toward the enemy threat as possible. In event of nuclear attack it is doubtful whether defensive weapons based in home territories can get into action soon enough or far enough away to provide good protection for vital areas.

The ocean areas of the world present opportunities to gain more time and space for defense. The location of ships at sea is generally unknown to an enemy. Ships must be searched for and located before they can be attacked. This takes extra time.

Ships are deployed away from home, away from population centers of the homeland, near possible trouble areas. This gives the Free World extra space. The side which has extra time and space has a decisive advantage.

Next, offensive weapons must be deployed as close to the source of the threat as possible. This provides another significant time and space advantage in event of attack. It adds substantially to the weight of fire that can be delivered on target for a given expenditure of resources. This means

superior economy of force, more attack capability for the amount of money expended.

Third, additional dispersal and maneuvering space must be found. The one remaining area of the world where space is relatively inexpensive, and where unlimited dispersal can be achieved without interfering with people, is the oceans of the world.

To insure that these vast ocean spaces remain available for the Free World, we must be able to control them, use them and deny them to our enemies. This requires a collective Free World effort. No single Free World Nation can accomplish this vast assignment alone.

We in the United States Navy are convinced that an ever-increasing portion of the offensive and defensive power of the future must be deployed in the ocean spaces of the world. This applies to Soviet power as well as to Free World power. One need only contemplate the tremendous Soviet naval program, and their persistent efforts to gain access to ice-free coastal areas, to conclude that they recognize this.

The Soviet naval building program was started at a time when they were short of everything, at a time when they were still rebuilding from World War II devastation. Their purpose is quite apparent. They propose to have the means to deny the Free World use of the seas. If they ever gain that ability, they will have achieved their goal of world domination.

The Soviets are emphasizing submarine construction. They are building them in huge numbers. They apparently see in the submarine a means of launching guided missiles against the United States. They see in the submarine an opportunity to inflict terrible losses on Free World shipping, perhaps even exceeding the accomplishments of Hitler's submarines, which destroyed millions of tons.

The large number of submarines in the Soviet Fleet are a grave menace today to the sea communications upon which our partnership depends.

In event of nuclear war, the power to survive the initial assault, the power to recover, the power to organize, the power to shift resources, and the power to carry on to victory depends on the ability of our navies to move on the seas, to control them and to bring tremendous power to bear where it is needed, when it is needed.

For over four centuries the leaders of England have brought independence, prosperity and security to their country through their incomparable understanding of the oceans. Today, when the ocean spaces clearly hold the key to the future, the Free World continues to look to England's deep, historical knowledge of the sea for inspiration and guidance.

Those of the Free World who understand these things must persist in their efforts to call attention to the importance of the oceans in this nuclear-missile age.

Our greatest danger as free people lies in the failure to recognize our oceanic opportunities, rather than in lack of techniques or courage to deal with the enemy

In the oceans will be found the mobility which we need to move with superior force to the aid of those among us who are threatened with aggression.

In the vastness of the oceans will be found the space to disperse and maneuver the powerful offensive-defensive complexes of the future.

In the oceans will be found the means of deterring or defeating nuclear aggression and the means of keeping local wars localized.

It is the oceans which bind together the tremendously superior power of the Free World. The oceans bind the NATO alliance together. Without their use our great partnership cannot exist.

We in the United States Navy firmly believe that Free World survival in the years ahead depends to a very large degree on the sea-consciousness of its peoples and governments. Through proper use of the oceans the Free World can continue to confront the modern-day totalitarian with overwhelming force, overwhelming resources, better manpower and better scientific and industrial talent. The oceans provide new opportunities for the solution of some of the most pressing problems of our time. They are the key to many of our future security problems, at a price we can afford to pay.

One of the hardest problems in the world is determining the proper balance to be maintained within a nation's military forces. This requires the best professional military experience and the best professional military judgment the nation has available. My experience with this problem over a period of several years has impressed me with the tremendous contribution made by each of the military services to the overall defense effort. Each service has an indispensable, very specialized part to play. No single service can perform successfully without the help of the others. The military power of a nation rests in the united, balanced effort of all the services, each contributing its best in its own field, each supporting the others in their fields.

In the broader framework of all alliance, this team concept applies equally well. In it lies our best hope of safeguarding a Free World which our oceanic strength makes possible.

---END---